

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 00128 101559Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8182

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

UNCLAS BELGRADE 0128

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, YO, UR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO"

1. BELGRADE DAILY POLITIKA JAN 10 CARRIES REPORT BY ITS MOSCOW CORR BAJALSKI ON REACTION IN USSR TO SOLZHENITSYN'S "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO". BAJALSKI REPORTS THAT INITIAL SOVIET INTERNAL RESPONSE TO PUBLICATION OF "GULAG" HAS BEEN RESTRAINED, WHILE SOVIET COMMENTATORS (TASS, PRAVDA) HAVE SHARPLY CRITICIZED BOOK'S RECEPTION IN WEST. AS EXAMPLE, BAJALSKI CITES ANATOLIJ POTAPOV COMMENTARY, WHICH EMPHASIZED THAT SOME "COLD WAR FORCES" IN WEST WISH TO SABOTAGE POLICY OF DETENTE.

2. SECOND BAJALSKI MOSCOW REPORT, CARRIED SAME DAY AND PAGE IN POLITIKA, CONCERNING A TELEVISION COMMENTARY ON "PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE" BY PRAVDA'S YURI ZHUKOV. ZHUKOV RESPONDED TO "LISTENERS' PROTESTS" OF ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA "CARRIED BY VOICE OF AMERICA, BBC, DEUTSCHE WELLE, AND BY OTHER WESTERN RADIO STATIONS," WRITES BAJALSKI. POLITIKA'S CORR REPORTS THAT COMMENTARY CITED PUBLICATION OF "GULAG" IN WEST AS PART OF THIS ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN, AND REBUKED BOTH BOOK AND AUTHOR. ENTIRE TELECAST, CONCLUDES BAJALSKI, "WAS AIMED AT THESIS THAT SOVIET UNION WANTS AFFIRMATION OF POLICY OF COEXISTENCE BETWEEN STATES HAVING DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS, BUT COEXISTENCE DOES NOT MEAN WEAKENING OF IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE."

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3. "RED" TANJUG BULLETIN JAN 7 CARRIED AFP (MOSCOW) DESPATCH
ON DECLARATION BY ANDRE SAKHAROV AND OTHER SOVIET INTELLECT-
UALS IN DEFENSE OF SOLZHENITSYN AND PUBLICATION OF "GULAG."

4. YUGOSLAV MEDIA HAVE NOT AS YET OFFERED COMMENTARY ON
"GULAG" NOR CITED REACTION TO PUBLICATION OF BOOK OTHER
THAN FROM MOSCOW.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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